

THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

RECEIVED
#0006 2910 7281#
005 BTM
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL SOC
901 COMMERCE ST STE 401
NASHVILLE
TN 37203-1629

CE 1877

8, 2011

DL 135

No. 29

MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

Pres., officials give okay to DADT repeal.

WASHINGTON (BP) — U.S. President Barack Obama and Pentagon leaders announced Friday they have certified that the United States military is prepared for open homosexuals to serve in the armed services.

In compliance with a law enacted in December, Obama, U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Michael Mullen certified that revocation of a nearly 18-year-old law known as Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT) would not impair military effectiveness. The action was announced on the same day Panetta was sworn in as defense secretary.

Critics of the reversal warn it will result in infringements on religious liberty, as well as harm to the readiness, privacy, and retention of service members.

Iran imposes death sentence on pastor

WASHINGTON (BP) — The fate of Iranian pastor Yousef Nadarkhani has been finalized by a written verdict from the country's Supreme Court: he must renounce his faith in Jesus Christ or face execution.

Baptist Press reported July 8 that Christians in Iran were challenging news reports that Nadarkhani's death penalty had been annulled. The Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) human rights organization reported July 14 that the court's written verdict had been released, confirming that Nadarkhani faces execution unless he renounces his faith.

The original verdict on charges of apostasy was based on "fatwas," or legal rulings issued by Islamic scholars. The fatwas came from Iran's most powerful religious leaders — Ayatollahs Khomeini, Khamenei, and Makarem Shirazi — and the Supreme Court may have been reluctant to overturn the verdict for fear of inviting controversy, CSW advocacy director Andrew Johnston said in a press statement.

Following reports of the verdict, the U.S. State Department issued a statement expressing dismay over the situation, according to Fox News. Human rights advocates say apostasy isn't even identified as a crime under Iranian law.

"From a human rights perspective, you can't criminalize someone's choice of religion, much less execute them for that," Hadi Ghaemi, executive director of

the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran, told Fox News.

Other religious groups also face persecution for their beliefs in Iran, the State Department pointed out. Seven Baha'i leaders have been sentenced to 20 years in prison for practicing their faith, and hundreds of members of Islam's Sufi sect have been flogged in public because of their beliefs.

Iran has been fairly tolerant of the country's Armenian and Assyrian Christian groups, which date from the early days of Christianity, but Muslims who profess faith in Christ have been pressured.

Nadarkhani was arrested in October 2009 while attempting to register his church. His arrest is believed to have been due to his questioning of the Muslim monopoly on the religious instruction of children in Iran, according to news reports. He initially was charged with protesting, but the charges against him were later changed to apostasy and evangelizing Muslims.

Johnston said CSW is urging the Iranian regime to "respect the stipulations of international treaties to which it is party, including the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights, which guarantees freedom of religion and freedom to change one's religion or belief ... The international community must act urgently to press Iran to ensure ... that Pastor Nadarkhani in particular is acquitted of a charge that is not in fact recognized under Iranian civil law."



Nadarkhani

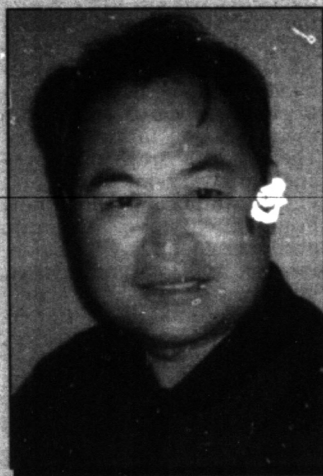
China house church leader sentenced to 're-education'

SUQIAN CITY, China (BP) — A key leader of the Chinese House Church Alliance (CHCA) has been sentenced to two years in a labor camp as part of a crackdown on illegal worship, ChinaAid reported July 25.

Pastor Shi Enhao, deputy chairman of CHCA, was sentenced to "re-education through labor," an extrajudicial punishment that requires no conviction or trial, because of his position in an influential umbrella group of Chinese house churches.

ChinaAid, a group that monitors religious freedom in China, reported that Shi's current charge is for "illegal meetings and illegal organizing of venues for religious meetings."

To become legal, Chinese churches must be registered with the government and join the Three-Self Patriotic Movement, but with registration comes restrictions on Sunday School, baptisms for minors, and evangelism, said



Shi Enhao

Bob Fu, president and founder of ChinaAid.

According to ChinaAid, the labor camp sentence is not the first police action against Shi in Suqian City, which is 500 miles south of Beijing and home to more than five mil-

lion people. The pastor was detained by police March 31 and held for 12 days.

The Suqian Public Security Bureau detained the pastor June 21 for "suspicion of using superstition to undermine national law enforcement," ChinaAid reported, noting that criminal detention is the first step in a legal process that usually ends in a criminal offense and a prison sentence.

Shi's story unfolds against the backdrop of Shouwang Church with nearly 1,000 members in Beijing, which was evicted from its meeting hall and has been attempting to meet outdoors despite persecution since April.

Some have criticized Shouwang Church for trying to continue meeting as one large congregation instead of breaking up into smaller house churches like CHCA has done.

Shi's church, with a congregation of several thousand, is actually larger than

Shouwang but the CHCA members have been meeting in multiple locations across the city in an attempt to pass under the police's radar. However, ChinaAid noted Shi's sentence shows that contrary to critics of Shouwang, investigation and punishment are not limited to large on-site churches.

CHCA has already faced persecution from the Chinese government for worshipping illegally. The Domestic Security Protection Department ordered CHCA to stop meeting and confiscated the umbrella group's car, musical instruments, choir robes, and 140,000 yuan in donations — the equivalent of more than \$21,000, according to ChinaAid.

Shi's family has served the church in China for four generations, and since the investigation of illegal churches his three daughters and their husbands also have been threatened by police, ChinaAid reported.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

EDITOR
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN
Rebekah Ray
rray@mbcb.org

ADVERTISING
Emily Jones
ejones@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

EDITOR EMERITUS
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Archie Herrin, Columbia
Chris Webb, Jackson
Sharon Neff, Cleveland
John Price, Charleston
Dwayne Parker, Flora
Paul Sims, Pontotoc

Postmaster:
Send changes of address to: THE
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and
address changes to: The Editor,
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

VOLUME 135 • NUMBER 29
(ISSN-0005-5778)
Published weekly except weeks of July 4
and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street,
Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$10.35 per
year payable in advance. Economy plans
available for cooperating Mississippi churches.
Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS.
Member, Association of State Baptist Papers.
Deadlines: News items — one calendar
week prior to requested publication date.
Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to
requested publication date. All submissions
are subject to editing.

Churches facing huge legal awards

The Great Commission of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, found in Matthew 28:18-20, does not contain the clause, "...and be sure you plan for everything that can possibly go wrong." In litigious modern America, however, some unfortunate churches have found themselves in court for failing to do just that.

Idlewild Church in Lutz, Fla., is the latest church to fall into the maw of the legal system. According to tampabay.com, the web site for the St. Petersburg Times newspaper, the church sponsored a youth snow skiing trip to North Carolina in 2003 where one of the minor boys on the trip, who had never snow skied and whose family had been members of Idlewild Church for ten years, somehow wandered on to an expert-level ski run and collided with another skier at a speed that has been estimated at 55 miles per hour.

As a result of the collision, the Idlewild youth suffered major spinal and leg injuries that left him with permanent paralysis problems, including the complete loss of use of one foot. The mother of the youth filed suit against the church. Seven years later, a jury in Tampa handed down a judgment of \$4.75 million against the church. (The award was actually five million dollars, but the jury found the mother to be five percent responsible.)

Attorneys for the youth's mother alleged at trial that the church did not provide one chaperone for every 10 young people who were on the trip, as parents had been told, and that no adult on the trip saw to it that the novice skiers in the church group received instructions or supervision.

The Florida Baptist Witness, the news journal of the Florida Baptist Convention, reported in a July 22 article on Baptist Press that a judge vacated the award against the church on July 19 after he found two jurors had concealed crucial information about themselves in formal pre-trial questioning known as *voir dire*.

The two jurors, one of whom ultimately served as foreman, failed to disclose under repeated questioning that they had been involved in numerous lawsuits prior to the Idlewild trial. "The integrity of the legal system's use of impartial jurors is at

stake with two jurors concealing current, material, and significant information," said Hillsborough County Circuit Judge James D. Arnold. "Idlewild is entitled to a new trial as a consequence."

That might seem like a victory for the church, but now they have to wade through another trial and also address the promise from the mother's attorney to appeal Arnold's order to vacate the judgment. For Idlewild, this is a long way from over.

"We did everything we could to avoid being in a situation where our spiritual family matters were brought before the public in a court of law," said Idlewild Pastor Ken Whitten, former president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference and a former candidate for president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Whitten said he continues to grieve for the young man, now 21 and living out of state, and for the family. "I still pray for them," he said.

The moral of this tortuously drawn-out story seems to be that churches indeed have to be prepared for everything, or suffer the consequences. Fair or not, that's the way it is. Negligent mistakes and oversights are rarely tolerated in the American legal system. Since all problems cannot be foreseen and no ministry is perfect, it behooves churches to make certain they have proper and adequate insurance coverage.

Richard Hammer, a Harvard Law School graduate and certified public accountant who specializes in church law, said in a January article in Christianity Today magazine that churches need to carefully weigh insurance decisions against the many and varied activities of the church and on the net assets of the church.

"If a church has a youth program that has frequent meetings involving several minors... provides counseling, or hosts community activities, then its liability risks are increased, and it should be looking for higher insurance limits," he said.

The coverage is out there. There is no excuse for a church to be completely exposed to ruinous legal judgments and expenses. Every Mississippi Baptist church, regardless of size or budget, needs to ensure that it is insured.

Don't wait. Do it today.

GUEST OPINION:

Building up pastors' wives

By Kathy Litton
Saraland, Alabama

their effectiveness. They realize the intimate connection their wives share in their calling to advance the Gospel. Our husbands would be the first to testify to the critical role we play in their lives and to the ministry. Their brides share their pilgrimage of ministry day by day.

Most important, they know how much love, strength, encouragement, joy, companionship, wisdom, confidence, hope, faith and even fun they draw from us. Most understand the incredible sacrifices and investments of their wives as well as the various demands and expectations placed on them. They recognize how few deposits are made into our lives, with constant withdrawals occurring. When that is the case as it is far too often, struggle, strain, and crisis may occur. It is no secret today that many ministry families are at a breaking point.

Ministry wives represent a great deal of leadership and

influence within the local church and the Kingdom of God. These women fulfill this role with far too little support, training or encouragement. Under the leadership of the North American Mission Board (NAMB), a new ministry for pastors' wives across North America has emerged that is designed to strengthen, support, train, and encourage women in this critical role.

How can we strengthen and equip ministry wives? She needs tools and encouragement to develop her own transformational walk with the Lord. She needs biblical teaching and training to grow and strengthen her marriage and parenting skills. A wife can benefit greatly from biblical, practical training and coaching for ministry life. The experience and coaching of other faithful, seasoned pastors' wives can be a tremendous investment into her journey.

She longs for encouragement, support, and prayer.

Since she exists in a rare environment, an understanding friend would refresh her soul. She or her family may need loving care in a sensitive, family, or personal crisis. She can receive helpful training in her arena of ministry as well as leadership development to increase her influence and impact.

With these kinds of investments, she will be empowered to partner more fruitfully and effectively with her husband to advance the Gospel.

In my new role as director of this ministry, I am engaging ministry wives across the country to hear hearts as we identify issues and needs. We are our own best resources in understanding this unique role. Workgroups are being formed to develop practical strategies to strengthen ministry wives across a broad spectrum of needs. With collaboration and partnerships across Southern Baptist life, I believe we can equip ministry wives more intentionally.

She is key. For far too long she has gone under-supported in her role. By strengthening her, I believe we strengthen our ministry to advance the Gospel.

Litton is national director of NAMB's ministry to pastors' wives. Her husband is Ed Litton, pastor of First Church North Mobile in Saraland, Ala.

So. Baptists rushing aid of Horn of Africa

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP and local reports) — Southern Baptists are at work with relief efforts in the Horn of Africa, where drought and famine threaten the lives of nearly 11 million people.

Recent news reports have sparked heightened interest in the suffering there but the crisis has been building for years, said Jeff Palmer, executive director of the Baptist Global Response (BGR) international relief and development organization.

"We are grateful the mass media have begun reporting on the situation and that more people are becoming concerned," Palmer said. "Southern Baptists have been engaged in humanitarian work in that area since the 1970s, and we are initiating new projects so people who care will have plenty of opportunities to reach out to people in the Horn of Africa who are in desperate need."

The United Nations estimates about 770,000 people have fled to refugee camps and about \$1.3 billion will be needed to address the crisis.

The Horn of Africa, which juts into the Arabian Sea and consists of the modern-day countries of Eritrea, Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Somalia, suffers from long-term cycles of drought and famine. Constant political unrest adds to the misery of the people there and exacerbates shortages.

Southern Baptists began months ago to address the developing crisis, said Mark Hatfield, who with his wife Susan directs BGR work in Sub-Saharan Africa and is helping coordinate response to the crisis. "East Africa has experienced cycles of hunger due to failed crops, economic crises, and climatic changes for decades, with those cycles becoming closer and closer together in recent years," Hatfield said. "Southern Baptists have been involved in addressing these needs. In 2009, the World Hunger Fund helped respond to a severe drought among the Masai of southern Kenya. Over one million dollars was allocated to provide supplemental feeding during that cycle of hunger."

"Since then, over \$190,000 has been allocated for feeding projects focused in northern Kenya and Southern Sudan," Hatfield added. "We are assessing the current situation among the people groups we have relationships with, and we are working with our BGR partners in the East Africa area to develop ministries that will reach out to those most vulnerable during this critical time of hunger and suffering."

Meanwhile, Southern Baptists are facing a serious decline in their World Hunger Fund just as the massive drought/famine



AFRICA IN NEED — Just as a massive drought/famine cycle threatens almost 11 million people in the Horn of Africa, Southern Baptists are struggling with a sharp fall in financial support for their World Hunger Fund. Leaders are calling on Southern Baptists to donate ahead of a special Southern Baptist Convention-wide World Hunger Fund emphasis on Oct. 9. (BP photo)

cycle envelops the Horn of Africa, a Southern Baptist humanitarian leader said on July 25.

The situation is compounded by greatly increased needs around the world while giving to the World Hunger Fund has sharply declined, BGR head Palmer said.

"We are now at a 'red alert' time for our human needs funding," Palmer pointed out. "The overseas hunger relief fund is down to \$4.1 million. Dollars — enough to meet the needs of Southern Baptist international hunger projects for six months. These projects help the poorest of the poor, the most neglected and marginalized and some of the most lost people groups in the world. We are approaching a baseline where we are going to have to start denying funds to critical projects."

Southern Baptists donated \$4.3 million to the World Hunger Fund in 2010, only 40% of what they gave during a 12-month span a decade earlier, according to numbers supplied by the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, which oversees the fund.

"Last year was the lowest donations to the World Hunger Fund have been in 20 years," Palmer said. "This is very disturbing, seeing the huge need of the crisis looming in the Horn of Africa. Our Southern Baptist avenue of seeing the lost, last and least be helped both physically and spiritually is about to dry up."

The drought in the Horn is the worst since 1951, noted Abraham Shepherd, who with his wife Grace directs BGR work in Northern Africa. He pointed to a United States Aid for International

Development analysis that says the drought has driven up food prices and weakened livestock, thus increasing malnutrition, hunger and famine.

Hunger projects in the Horn and eastern Africa have totaled more than \$250,000 just in the past two years, Palmer said.

"Southern Baptists, who care so deeply about people in need, have given very generously to the World Hunger Fund in years past," he said. "They are able to give in confidence because every dollar donated to the World Hunger Fund is used 100% to help hungry people. Now it looks like the World Hunger Fund has become the best kept secret in Southern Baptist life. It's a secret that needs to get out for the sake of millions whose lives and destinies are threatened by hunger or starvation."

While World Hunger Sunday is scheduled in Southern Baptist churches for Oct. 9, the dual crises in Africa and the World Hunger Fund call for a daily response to people in desperate need today, Shepherd added.

"In Africa, thousands have fled as refugees or IDPs (internally-displaced people) and others await their fate," Shepherd said.

"We can eat when we are hungry, but they cannot," Palmer said. "Would you care to make a difference?"

The World Hunger Fund fights hunger in the United States as well as abroad, he added.

"Twenty percent of the donations to the World Hunger Fund are used domestically through the North American Mission Board to feed people like the victims of the Alabama and Joplin tornados," Palmer said. "The remainder is used overseas through the International Mission Board."

"Southern Baptists who want to make a difference in world hunger can do that best by giving through their local church, designating it for the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund," Palmer added.

Updates can be monitored on Twitter (www.twitter.com/gobgr), Facebook (<http://on.fb.me/hKaE6j>) and www.gobgr.org.

Looking back

10 years ago

Roger D. and Rose A. Bear, and Lee Merk and Christy C. Merck, two couples with Mississippi ties, are appointed as missionaries with the North American Mission Board.

20 years ago

James Breland, BSU director at Delta State University in Cleveland, retires after "40 years of fun." Observers believe Breland's service at DSU probably represents the longest single-campus tenure of any student director in the Southern Baptist Convention.

50 years ago

A new dorm, valued at \$214,582, is to be built at William Carey College. The structure will include 20,000 square feet of space housing 108 male students.



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

JULY 28, 2011

VOL. 135

No. 29



YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

BIBLIOPHER

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
© 2005

CTXIWTG VXKT WTTT
ID UPQATH PCS
TCSATHH VTCTPAD-
VXTH, LWXRW BXCX-
HITG FJTHIXDCH, GPI-
WTG IWPC VDSAN TSX-
UNXCV LWXRW XH XC
UPXIW; HD SD.
UXGHI IXBDIWN DCT:
UDJG

Clue: C = N

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Romans Seven: Four

TWO RIGHT BOOTS

A dear but somewhat distant relative of mine had an unfortunate incident last year that presented a dilemma for which I could not find an answer. He and his wife had been on a cruise across the Gulf and down to Cancun. They had a wonderful experience. While there, he came across a shop that sold hand-made cowboy boots. Almost instantly, he came down with cowboy boot buying fever. He bought a beautiful pair of full ostrich skin boots. The store boxed them up and, shortly thereafter, they were headed home. When they got back to the States, they were going through a customs procedure and the folks there asked, "What's in that box?" He proudly told them that it was new boots that he had bought. They asked him to open the box so that they could see that he was not bringing some kind of contraband or drugs into the country.

He took the boots out of the box, set them on the table, and his wife asked him, "Do you notice anything strange about those boots?" He replied, "No! Why?" She said, "Well, look at them." He, his wife, and the friends who were with them were standing around and, at about the same time, all of them fully understood the problem. He had two beautiful, full ostrich cowboy boots for his right foot. How could that happen? How could somebody be so dumb as to buy two right boots? Did he not try on both boots? Now what do you do? Do you jump back on the plane and go back to Cancun? I don't think so! After a few moments of mental processing, they decided to go on home and call the store where he got the boots to see if they could work out some kind of an arrangement to send one boot down and get one back. Maybe they could find the poor fellow who had two left boots and deal with him.

When they got home and called the store, one after another they talked with persons who did not speak English. Even when they finally connected with someone who spoke English and explained what had happened, what was needed, and how the problem could be rectified, it was virtually impossible to communicate. At this point, the frustration level was beginning to be felt on the Richter scale. I guess Plan B would be to think of someone you knew who was going to Cancun who might be able to take the boots back and work a deal to get a left boot, or maybe you would be forced to book another cruise to go and hopefully work out some agreement. None of those ideas seemed to be workable.



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Now, it was somewhere about this time in the process when I heard the story about the two right foot boots. I did not hesitate to call and make an offer to see if we could work out a deal. Trying to disguise my voice, I asked the young man if I could buy one of his boots. I explained to him that I had two left boots. Of course, he quickly figured out it was one of his relatives and it was not funny to him. I asked him if he had checked around to see if maybe there was someone who, because of an accident or something, needed only a right boot. If so, he could give him a ten-year supply. He did not find that humorous either. We talked about it a while and I had no help to offer him. There he was, stuck with two new, high-dollar, handmade, full ostrich, right foot cowboy boots.

While a lot of us were having fun at his expense over his expensive, useless boots, he was trying to get up to speed to join us in the levity. It was a steep climb. Some weeks later, I called him to see how he and his boots were doing. I could tell life was returning to normal as he told me that he still had the boots. In fact, he had decided to try to wear two right boots one day, but he said he just kept going in a circle to the left so he had to take them off.

There were some valuable lessons learned by him and those of us who know him, not the least of which is to be sure you know what you are getting when you get something because you may be stuck with it. Now, you can apply that bit of wisdom if you are looking for a used car, a hunting dog, a pair of boots, a husband, or a wife. The fact is that there are probably more of us than would want to admit it who have gotten hold of things in life that maybe we should have waited, looked at a little more closely, or looked at them on both feet before we paid for them.

A second lesson that could be learned from this dilemma is to try to keep a sense of humor through your difficulties. I would admit that it is usually easier to be lighthearted about the other fellow's misfortunes than it is your own. Even in your own dilemmas, occasionally you will be able to lighten up a little bit. As bad as it seemed at moments, the reality was and is that buying a pair of boots with two right feet is ultimately not the end of the

world. I suppose that most of us could sit down and quickly write down a thousand other things with which we would not want to be dealing that could range from a car wreck to a physical defect, a death to a crushing debt, or the loss of a job to the betrayal of a friend.

I remember being at a big flea market some years ago. There was a fellow there who had a little stand and he was selling fairly large boxes of socks for two dollars. I thought, "Goodness, you cannot go wrong," and so I bought a box. I really did not pay any attention to what I had bought until

I got home. I began to look at my socks and there was not one match. No two of the socks in the entire box were alike. I do not know how they did that or why they did that, but while it was only a couple of dollars I was at first mad at the fellow for selling them, then angry at myself for buying them, and ended up just laughing about the whole thing.

The third thing that I think came out of this situation was that it tends to raise your level of sensitivity about the world around you. In particular, be sure to keep your eyes open for someone in the crowd of this populated world who may be walking around wearing two left, full ostrich skin cowboy boots. You may never see him, but you can live in hope and stay sharp-eyed looking for the guy. If you run into him, no doubt, he will be looking for my relative and I can help him.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

ON BLU-RAY™/DVD COMBO PACK AND DVD NOW
FIND OUT WHERE TO GET IT AT SOULSURFERWAVE.COM

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

July 28, 2011

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

Pray this day for...

July 29 - Aug. 11, 2011

"Open your eyes and look at the fields, for they are ready for harvest. The reaper is already receiving pay and gathering fruit for eternal life, so the sower and reaper can rejoice together."
John 4:35-36

Pray for: Aaron* and Tiffany Epps, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Brazil through church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: Robert* and Margaret Fortenberry, IMB missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in Botswana through church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: Megan Fraiser*, IMB missionary ministering to Southeast Asian Peoples in the United States through community outreach and encounter evangelism.

Pray for: David* and Gloria* Glaze, IMB missionaries ministering to Deaf Peoples in the United States through media consultation and promotion.

Pray for: a volunteer from FBC, New Albany, traveling to Thailand to help lead VBS for an IMB workers' retreat, August 4-13.

Pray for: John* and Sonia* Grady, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in the United States through church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: Clarence Frank and Phoebe* Harrison, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Honduras through church planting, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: Brian* and Felicia* Henderson, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Peru through church and home outreach and evangelism, and serving through regional office support.

Pray for: the pastor of Liberty BC, Flowood, traveling to Southeast Asia to minister through a pastors' teaching conference, August 8-19.

Pray for: Benton* and Ramona Hewitt, IMB missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in the United States through medical missions, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: Raymond* and Cynthia Hodgins, IMB missionaries ministering to Deaf Peoples in the United States through sports evangelism, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: Jeffery* and Lissa* Holman, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Peru through community, church and home outreach and encounter evangelism.

*These International Mission Board missionaries claim Mississippi as their home state. The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

Professional Certification
for Ministry Assistants and
Ministry Office Skillsshops

BAPTIST

August 16-18, 2011
GAR/YWA CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER
CLINTON, MISSISSIPPI

Certification
The certification course is divided into six three-hour sections:

- God's Call
- My Character
- Leadership
- Communication
- Administration
- Ministry

Skillshops
Basic English and Church Financial Management skillshops offer in-depth experiential treatment of specific areas of office administration and ministry.

Contact Kay McDonnell at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305, or 601-292-3305 or kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

2012 MARGARET LACKEY
STATE MISSIONS OFFERING EMPHASIS

Undiscovered

Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.
Jeremiah 33:3

Contact your BSU director or church minister to register or contact Collegiate Ministry @ 800.748.1651 (\$8 registration fee)

Speaker: Ben Stuart (Breakaway, College Station)

For all college students
Find opportunities to be involved
Get info about summer missions

CSC '11
College Student Conference 2011
Crescent Baptist Church
Sept. 30 - Oct. 1
Music: Ross King (College Station)

Sponsored by
Collegiate Ministry
and Baptist Student Union
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
A Ministry of the Cooperative Program

The following is a listing of contributions made to the Lord's work which were received by the business office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board from January 1, 2011, through June 30, 2011. An *** denotes a gift from the association. If you have any questions about the amounts reported for your church, please contact the business office at 601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651. Thank you.

[illegible]

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



1. Calvary Church, Newton



2. Roundaway Church, Doddsville



3. Tiplersville Church, Tiptah County

1. Calvary Church, Newton: June 12 - 17; 90 participants, with \$500 offering going toward Mississippi Disaster Relief; shown are the participants.

2. Roundaway Church, Doddsville: June 5 - 10; 93 enrolled; nine professions of faith; \$439.67 mission offering. Shown are the participants.

3. Tiplersville Church, Tiptah County: July 9; Thomas Magers II, pastor; shown are the participants.

4. Edna Church, Columbia: May 31 - June 3; shown are director Sherry Breeland and participants.

5. New Bethel Church, Carroll County: July 10 - 15; at least 50 participants; Joseph Sansing, pastor; shown are some of the participants.

6. First Church, Oloh, Sumrall: June 12 - 17; shown are teachers Gary and Heather Smith with students.



4. Edna Church, Columbia



5. New Bethel Church, Carroll County



6. First Church, Oloh, Sumrall

CLASSIFIED ADS

TRADITIONAL, CONSERVATIVE, GROWING SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH IN MEMPHIS, TN METROPOLITAN AREA SEEKS MINISTER OF YOUTH AND RECREATION. Send resume by July 31 to Personnel, Covenant Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1165, Collierville, TN 38027-1165.

MCCLENDON BAPTIST CHURCH OF WEST MONROE, LOUISIANA IS SEEKING A PASTOR. We desire a man of God to lead our church and give spiritual and administrative leadership. Resumes can be sent to: McCleendon Baptist Church, Attention Pastor Search Committee, 206 Downing Pines Rd., West Monroe, La 71292. Or jgardner@mc.com

CULLENDALE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CAMDEN, ARKANSAS is seeking a Full Time Youth/Student Life Minister. Salary based on experience and education. Current Youth program averages 45-55 students weekly. Please send resume and if possible audio or video to bvilliams@cullendalefb.org or 1850 Cash Road, Camden, AR 71701.

EVERYDAY HOUSECLEANING/ELDER CARE IN YOUR HOME - PET FRIENDLY - "HIGHLY RECOMMENDED" 601-918-6947.

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, FREE ESTIMATES. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss. phone 601-776-6617.

TATE SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH, LOCATED IN ARLINGTON, TX, is a multi-generational conservative Southern Baptist Church looking for a Senior Pastor who can operate in a team approach with pastoral staff. Our total Sunday morning attendance is 600-650. Please forward resume to Terry Jeffries, Pastor of Administration at terry@tatesprings.com or directly to the pulpit committee at pastorterry@tatesprings.com

GET THE BEST RATES ON: Health Insurance and Medicare Supplements. Call 1-800-541-8196 or visit www.turnersinsuranceonline.com

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., SERVING MS & AL since 1992. Call 800-605-2970

STAINED GLASS: NEW WINDOWS AND REPAIRS. Hopper Stained Glass, Jackson, 601-502-0202.

AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE VACATION CONDOS Gulf Shores and Orange Beach, AL. Rent Direct from Christian Family Owners. Lowest Prices on the Beach. Early Fall Special 4 Nights Eff Unit (2 adults & kids) \$444. Includes Everything. 1, 2 & 3 Bedroom units also available. Even lower prices for those in the Ministry. 205-556-0368 205-752-1231. www.gulfshorescondos.com

SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, Christian owned. All home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio covers, screen and glass rooms. 601-992-2092. Don & Rita Sebrén, owners.

EVERYONE NEEDS TO GET AWAY BETSY'S LIL' CABINS at Lake Lincoln State Park rents nightly or \$250.00 a week. For details Call 601-940-6841 or 601-643-8817

NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, INC., old Bibles rebound. Also, church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call 662-453-7424 or fax us at 662-455-6743.

HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS, Meridian. Design, fabrication, repair. Fax illustrations to 601-483-7958 or call 800-368-2705.

CASEVILLE MANOR-NEWLY OPENED PRIVATE CARE HOME. Nurse owned and operated. Nurse or cna on duty 24 hours a day. Private bedroom and bath. We accept ambulatory, non-ambulatory, hospice and respite patients. Private Pay only. 601-823-0922 Wesson, Ms.

GATLINBURG CABIN FOR RENT: 2 bd/2ba, full kitchen, great view of National Pk. \$95/night. 832-922-0401 / pdiw4760@att.net

MS POSITIONS

NEW PROSPECT BAPTIST CHURCH IN IUKA, MS IS ASKING GOD FOR A BIVOCATIONAL WORSHIP LEADER. Call 662-423-3030 or e-mail Doug4Him@juno.com Doug Christy, Pastor

NEW PROSPECT BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, MS IS SEEKING A BIVOCATIONAL MUSIC DIRECTOR. Please see www.newprospectbc.net for details. Send resume to New Prospect Baptist Church Attn: Music Search Committee, 691 Hwy. 84, Brookhaven, MS 39601.

SMALL RURAL CHURCH IN SOUTHEAST MISSISSIPPI SEEKS PASTOR. Please send resumes by August 31st to: Neely Baptist Church, c/o Charles L. Breland, P.O. Box 249, Neely, MS 39461

THRASHER BAPTIST CHURCH IN PRENTISS COUNTY IS SEEKING A BIVOCATIONAL MUSIC MINISTER. Resumes can be submitted to Music Minister Search Committee, 200 CR 1040, Booneville, MS 38829 or emailed to dougal.estrav@yahoo.com

JUNIPER GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC. Resumes can be emailed to junipergrovebc@gmail.com or mailed to 289 Juniper Grove Road, Poplarville, MS 39470. For more information please call 601-795-8886.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, NEW ALBANY, MS IS SEEKING TO FILL THE ORGANIST POSITION. Please contact the church office at 662-534-5312, if you are interested.

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH IN BROOKHAVEN, MS, IS SEEKING A PART-TIME MINISTER OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH. Resumes may be emailed to questions@cbcbrookhaven.org or mailed to P.O. Box 591, Brookhaven, MS, 39602.

THE STUDENT MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE AT STAR BAPTIST CHURCH IS NOW ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A FULL-TIME STUDENT MINISTER. This person will be responsible for leading a comprehensive program for children & youth. To request a job description, contact the church office @ 601-845-2736. Please email resumes to starbaptistresumes@gmail.com.

NEW SIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, MS, IS SEEKING A BIVOCATIONAL MUSIC DIRECTOR. Send resumes to: Charlotte Newell, 1017 Common Street, Wesson, MS 39191 or email to wanchar2353@att.net.

CHALYBEATE BAPTIST CHURCH IN WALNUT, MS IS SEEKING A PART-TIME SONG LEADER. Interested candidates need to submit a resume to chalybeatebaptist@gmail.com or call 662-750-4120.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Personal Service

Galatians 5:13-16, 22-26; 6:7-10

By Beth Bowman

The Heart of Service

(Galatians 5:13-15)

Paul begins this chapter with some powerful statements about how believers should treat their freedom and fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. This freedom the church had found was a gift. This freedom gave them the release from earning their own way to God. This freedom released them from the penalty of sin. Most importantly, this freedom released them from the power and the grip of sin. Even today, we should not use this freedom as an excuse to sin because if we do, the bondage of sin will again envelope us.

The opposite of selfish desires and control is serving one another.

Following our own desires is thinking only of our needs.

When we serve in love, we conquer our natural inclination to think only of self. Verse 14 states, "The entire law of God can be fulfilled in one statement, Love your neighbor as yourself." Really? Could it be that our treatment of our brothers and sisters in our faith community be the revelation of our heart for Christ? Ouch!

But I say (Galatians 5:16, 22-26) Paul is using his authority here and giving them wise, practical help to overcome their selfishness. "Walk by the Spirit and you will not fulfill the desire of the flesh" (vs. 16)

The Message puts it in plain language with these words, "My counsel is this: Live freely, animated and motivated by God's Spirit. Then you won't feed the compulsions of selfishness." And



Bowman

how do we know when we are being led by the Spirit? We will have the evidence of these things in our life- love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, and self-control. When you see a believer who displays this in his life, you can know

he is living a spirit-controlled life. Especially if you notice these characteristics during their lives at a time that doesn't make sense. It's not complicated or difficult. And the last part of verse 23 always makes me smile, "Against such things there is no law." God doesn't have any rules or law against the amount of joy you receive from the Holy Spirit. It's limitless. There is no penalty against the amount of peace present in your life. No laws against the evidence of God working in your life through His Spirit. How awesome!

In verse 24 we are reminded, "And those who are Christ's have crucified the

flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." (HCSB) The word crucified is significant here. It reminds us of what Jesus did for us on the cross.

Our sinful self died once and for all when Christ died, it no longer controls anymore. It's done, it's over. Now, since we live in the Spirit through salvation, let's walk each day in it.

Not Giving Up

(Galatians 6:7-10)

There is no doubt; you will see the evidence of whatever you invest your life in. If you choose to spend your time, money, energy and gifts for the good of the Gospel, you will see lives changed for eternity. If you spend your time, money, energy and gifts on only what benefits you, you will only see yourself advanced.

So, the verses encourage us, let us do good. There is something right about doing good for the household of faith, others who trust in Christ as Savior, who we

consider our brothers and sisters. Paul encourages us to walk in the Spirit, have evidence of the Spirit and do good for the body of Christ especially.

Many people will ask me, "What Exactly does a Minister of Connection do?" Because I serve at an awesome church, they have allowed me to take my very best gifts and serve in my sweet spot. I have the privilege of encouraging and placing volunteers. My ministry involves helping church members find their spiritual gifts and then "do good" to our church family, community, and world. It's exciting to watch believers discover their gifts and begin to see God use them for His Honor. And God is so gracious in allowing me to be a tiny part of that. Can you imagine? As we serve, we have the privilege to have a small part in eternal life for others. Holy Spirit, fill us up!

Bowman is Minister of Connection at First Church, Brandon, and a speaker for women's events.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Check Your Direction

Jeremiah 31:27-34

By Harold Simmons

There is a recruiting slogan: Be all you can be. This is an effort to get young adults to become a member of the armed forces of the United States. It is not without thought that that slogan was selected.

There are many who have no aim or purpose in life. They are stagnant where they are in life and don't seem to want more than they are at present. If you do not have a goal in life, you are already there. God intended for life to be more than drifting along accomplishing nothing. God intends for us to have an abundant life and that abundant life begins with our relationship

Promise of a new life

(Jeremiah 31:27-28)

Jeremiah gives the Lord's message to the people that He is going to give the exiles many children and property in the form of animals. They have and are going through a time of having nothing. Their life has no future as far as they can see. But God is saying to them that He has much in store for them. God has been the responsible agent in the destruction of their former full life and He is going to be the agent of an abundant life full of promise.

This full life is not going to happen quickly but it is coming. God puts no timetable except to say the time is coming. They are to live expectantly until that time



Simmons

arrives. This gives purpose and direction to their life. This is much like the Christian looking forward to the return of Jesus.

Individual responsibility for sin

(Jeremiah 31:29-30)

The sins of the people (collectively) put them in the situation where they are. There is coming a time when every person will be held accountable for their sin not the sin of the nation. Fingerprinting is a favorite past-time for politicians of our day, but they did not originate it. Adam and Eve were the first who were recorded as engaging in fingerprinting and, like all others, the finger did not point toward them. It is always someone else's fault. The people of Israel and Judah would no longer be able to point away from themselves in the coming day that God had appointed. A part of reconcilia-

Transformation of the heart

(Jeremiah 31:31-33)

I do not remember a time when the tablets of stone containing the law was ever taken out of the Ark of the Covenant to be shown to the people. I remember no festival in which viewing the tablets was a part of the ceremony. Even though the Law was read to the people at various occasions, they soon put these words out of their mind. This was one of their downfalls.

The time that God shares with them is a long way chronologically from where they are. This time will be when Jesus comes. Then the new covenant will be established in His blood. (Remember that time means nothing to God. It is like the time is just around the corner.) With this new covenant comes a new

method of keeping the covenant before the people. It will be in their hearts and they/we will ever have the covenant in our memory to help us live as God wants. If it is in the heart, the center of our being, then it will be the force to drive our actions and thoughts toward God. He will be our God and we will be His people because He is at the center of our every action and thought.

Personal relationship with the Lord

(Jeremiah 31:34)

The relationship will move from "we are God's people" to "I am God's child." That is a more personal relationship. There will be a face to face encounter with God through Jesus Christ. We will know from personal experience who God is and will not need another to intervene for us because we have a personal relationship with Him. He is promising to forgive our sins eternally.

Simmons is currently interim pastor at Cascilla Church, Cascilla

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.



Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

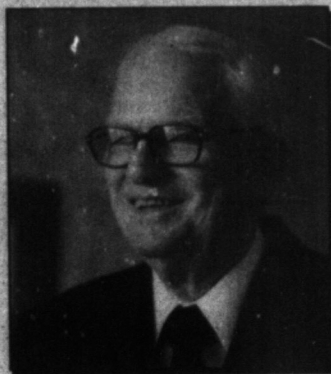
Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. North Columbia Church, Columbia



2. Hogan recognition



3. Bovina Church, Vicksburg



4. Edna Church, Columbia



5. Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto

1. North Columbia Church, Columbia, held a baby dedication ceremony May 8. Shown are pastor Mike Grenn, and Ryan and Jenny LeMoine with daughter Lala Kate.

2. Leland M. Hogan, pastor of Cartersville Church, Petal, received the honor of being recognized as a 2011 distinguished alumni from New Orleans Seminary. Hogan has been in ministry 58 years, 42 of which have been at Cartersville Church. He was presented this honor at the Southern Baptist convention in Phoenix, Arizona, June 15.

3. Bovina Church, Vicksburg, held a Father's Day celebration. Shown are some of the participants.

4. Edna Church, Columbia, honored Sidney Burch for being the oldest father present at the Father's Day service. Shown are Burch and Pastor Kenny Peavey.

5. The youth of Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto, attended MissionFuge at Mississippi College. Shown are the participants.

6. Calvary Church, Braxton, hosted their annual Awana awards May 18. Shown are the children and leaders. Bryan Shufelt, pastor.

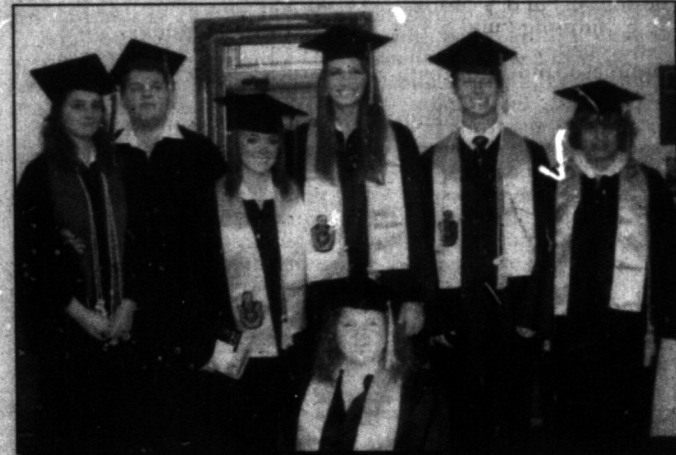
7. First Church, Morton, held a special service honoring their graduates. Shown are Tauwni Smith, Matthew Jolly, Jordan Grant, Emily Marler, Austin Mauney, A.J. Reeves, (keeling) Amber Jolly.

8. Liberty Church, Liberty, will host Benjamin Harlan and Dr. and Mrs. Clint Nichols in worship July 31, 6 p.m. A love offering will be received.

9. Montgomery Church, Summit, will host the Southern Plainsmen in concert July 31, 5:30 p.m. A love offering will be received.



6. Calvary Church, Braxton



7. First Church, Morton



12. McCall birthday

10. Poplar Springs Church, Hazelhurst, will host a fifth Sunday singing July 31, 10:30 a.m., featuring Red Roots, and followed by lunch. A love offering will be received.

11. Brandon Church, Brandon, will dedicate

their multipurpose building July 31. Open house, 2-4 p.m.; building dedication, 4 p.m.; reception, 5 p.m.

12. Edwards Church, Edwards, recently celebrated the 94th birthday of their pastor, John McCall, shown.

STAFF CHANGES

1. Vanilla Church, Lawrence County, has called Elijah Davis as pastor. He previously served as youth minister at New Zion Church, Lawrence County.

Visit us online at www.mbc.org.

COLLEGE NEWS

1. Former Mississippi College star and ex-New Orleans Saints standout Fred McAfee was selected to join the NCAA Division II Football Hall of Fame in Florence,

Alabama. The induction ceremony will be December 16 at the 26th annual Harlon Hill Trophy and Division II Football Hall of Fame banquet. For ticket informa-

tion, call the University of North Alabama Sports Information Office at (256) 765-4595 or the Shoals Chamber of Commerce at (256) 764-4661.